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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Election Warning From Turkmen in Iraq - Hurriyet
Turkish Businessman Abducted in Iraq - Milliyet
DEHAP Congress Turned to PKK Congress - Sabah
Kurds' Kirkuk Plot - Turkiye
Ocalan Posters at DEHAP Congress - Star
PKK Forms New Party to Participate in Iraqi Elections -
Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

NYT: "No WMDs in Iraq" - Radikal
Iraqi Turkmen Decry 72,000 Kurds Imported to Kirkuk for
Elections - Radikal
Turks Are the Target in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
No Changes in DEHAP - Cumhuriyet
US Warns Russia on Missile Sale to Syria - Cumhuriyet
US Wants Incirlik for Charter Cargo Planes - Cumhuriyet
Bush Defends Iraq Occupation - Yeni Safak
PKK Crisis Prior to Iraqi Elections - Yeni Safak
Missile Warning to Russia From US and Israel - Zaman

BRIEFING

PKK to Participate in Iraqi Elections: "Aksam" reports that the PKK is preparing to run in the Iraq elections under two different names: the Kurdistan Democratic Solution Party and the Iraqi Democratic Restructuring Party. During the trilateral meeting in Ankara this week, Turkey asked Iraqi and US officials to ban the participation of the two parties. However, Iraqi officials rejected the request, saying there is no concrete evidence of a link between the PKK and these two parties. Meanwhile, "Hurriyet," "Radikal," and "Turkiye" highlight the worries of the Iraqi Turkmen in Kirkuk. According to claims made by the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF), Barzani and Talabani have brought 72,000 Kurds from Syria and Iran and registered on voter lists in Kirkuk in order to outnumber Turkmen population there. A statement issued by the ITF representative in Ankara said that if the Kurds and the Iraqi Election Commission continue to tinker with the rules of the elections to allow more Kurds to participate, the ITF would 'reconsider its decision' to participate in the election.

US Wants Incirlik for Charter Cargo Planes: "Cumhuriyet" reports that during his visit to Ankara, General Abizaid asked Turkey for Incirlik to be used for civilian charter cargo planes. Reportedly, the cargo planes would carry logistical support material and equipment to Incirlik. The cargo would then be reloaded into military planes and transported to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Turkish Businessman Kidnapped, Driver Killed in Iraq: Abdulkadir anrikulu, a Turkish businessman, was kidnapped from his Baghdad hotel room yesterday by unknown gunmen. Six Iraqis were killed in the abduction. Tanrikulu's company had reportedly been doing business with US forces in Iraq. Meanwhile, "Cumhuriyet" reports that another Turkish truck driver was killed yesterday in Iraq, this time in the city of Samarra.

DEHAP Congress: Most papers report on the convention of the pro-Kurdish party DEHAP that was held in Ankara yesterday. The delegates did not sing the National Anthem at the opening ceremony, even though this was a legal requirement. Posters of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan and PKK flags were prominently displayed in the convention hall. Tuncer Bakirhan was re-elected as DEHAP party leader. Former DEP deputy Leyla Zana did not attend the congress due to an illness.

Missile Sale Warning to Russia: "Cumhuriyet" and "Zaman" report that the US has issued a warning to Russia that sanctions would be implemented against Russia if the Russians carry through on a proposed sale of SS-26 missiles to Syria.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

-- Iraq
-- Tsunami Relief

"Turkey Supports the Iraqi Resistance, and US Supports the PKK"
Erhan Basyurt observed in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (1/14): "Iraq has become an arena of conflict between the US and Turkey. There is a mutual mistrust. Turkey has many fears about US activities in Iraq, such as the division of the country, Kurdish independence, or a political dialogue between the PKK and American officials in northern Iraq. . The US, on the other hand, has fears about Turkey as well. For instance, in the latest issue of "Foreign Affairs," a prestigious US publication, there is an editorial by Edward [N. Luttwak](#), who accuses Turkey of providing weapons to Turkmen resistance groups. The article also implies that Turkey is supporting the resistance in Tal Afar. . The fact is that the US needs Turkey for a stable Iraq. Turkey's contribution to the Afghanistan process is a clear example. Turkey also needs the US to pursue its regional policies aimed at achieving peace and stability in Iraq and elsewhere in the region. This can only be made possible by establishing harmony with the US. Both the US and Turkey should start to heal their broken bilateral ties, starting with the primary bone of contention -- Iraq. Neither side should allow Iraq to be an area of insecurity that feed suspicions and preconceived judgments."

"It's Not too Late"
Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (1/14):
"Turkey so far has collected 9 million dollars for the tsunami victims in South Asia. 6 million of those dollars

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have been pledged by the government. Such an insignificant figure is not going to put Turkey's name even close to the list of world donors. Turkey had a serious earthquake, and its psychological effects are still seen in many people. So it is very hard to understand the ignorance in Turkey regarding the tsunami disaster. . It is still not too late. Turkey should continue the tsunami relief campaign and see its name listed among the world contributors. This is not an attempt to promote Turkey, but rather to prove Turkey's international cooperation and solidarity. It is not a matter of money. It is about Turkey's responsibility within the international community."

EDELMAN